



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2009 – ARRA4

TO: School District Superintendents
School Board Chairmen
Business Managers
Special Education Directors
Title 1 Managers

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D.

DATE: March 30, 2009

SUBJECT: ARRA Title 1 and IDEA Funds – 4

For Your Information

Through the availability and wise use of ARRA funds, our nation and our state have an historic opportunity to both stimulate the economy and improve education. Many of our sister states are currently experiencing actual shortfalls in state education spending as a result of the current recession. Wyoming has been fortunate to date, but any number of indicators point to reductions in state revenues in the years ahead.

Working with Governor Dave Freudenthal, WDE has established the following policies regarding the Title 1 and IDEA funds which may flow to Wyoming as early as next week:

- ARRA funds specific to education will be used to maintain Wyoming's commitment to funding as provided by the Wyoming Resource Block Grant model.
- The ARRA funds under the oversight of WDE and the state of Wyoming include all Title and IDEA funds, as well as the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.
- All ARRA funds used by districts must comply with extensive federal transparency reporting requirements.
- Districts will not have access to any ARRA funds until the Governor acts specifically to address potential shortfalls in the School Foundation Program. This includes the current year, as well as fiscal years 09-10, 10-11, and 11-12.

School District Superintendents, School Board Chairmen, Business
Managers, Special Education Directors, Title 1 Managers
March 30, 2009
Page 2

WDE continues to work with the United States Department of Education, the office of Senator Mike Enzi, and the Council of Chief State School Officers to determine the best and legal uses of ARRA funds.

Wyoming's economic history demonstrates that our state's economic trends lag behind national indicators. Governor Freudenthal and I agree that our first mission will be to assure state flexibility to use these funds as dictated by Wyoming's economic realities.

Governor Freudenthal has broad authority with regard to the state and School Foundation Program. His approval is necessary before the state receives federal funds. This authority governs the decision to freeze any stimulus funds for education until the state's economic picture becomes clearer.

We will provide additional information as it becomes available.

JM:rew